Sale of agricultural land

791. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of land-owing farmers as on 31st March, 2007, State-wise;

(b) how many of above, belong to SC and ST State-wise as on 31st March, 2007;

(c) the number of above (a) and (b) as on 31st March, 2001;

(d) why agriculture land is allowed to be sold for non-agricultural purpose;

(e) whether there is any thinking in Government for land owners belonging to SC not allowed to sale agricultural land to non SC; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per the information available pertaining to Agriculture Census 2000-01, the State-wise number of operational holders belonging to SC, ST and all Social Groups is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) Agriculture is a State subejct and the State Governments can acquire land for various purposes governed by their respective legislations, policies and procedures. However, the State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition, priority be given to waste and barren land.

(e) and (f) The Government is committed to protect the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. A Committee of Ministers for Dalit Affairs has been constituted and one of its terms of reference relates to strict enforcement of the Acts by the States for prevention of alienation of land belonging to the SCs and STs.

Statement

State-wise number of Operational Holders as per Agriculture Census 2000-01

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Social Group		
		All Social Group	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A and N Islands	11349	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11531945	1367420	862738
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	106783	0	104497
4.	Assam	2712137	140081	395442
5.	Bihar	11574245	1602735	130443
6.	Chandigarh	1245	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	3255062	405668	1057193
8.	D and N Haveli	14000	227	12560

1 2	3	4	5
9. Daman & Diu	6303	351	682
10. Delhi	28315	19	0
11. Goa	64064	358	0
12. Gujarat	4239242	153680	439214
13. Haryana	1527774	26729	0
14. Himachal Pradesh	913914	202639	42486
15. Jammu & Kashmir	1442894	102046	180261
16. Karnataka	7079388	823360	382461
17. Kerala	6656632	601428	90628
18. Lakshadweep	10231	0	9494
19. Madhya Pradesh	7359781	909456	1503403
20. Maharashtra	12100212	943652	777790
21. Manipur	149328	3040	63515
22. Meghalaya	214110	63	211473
23. Mizoram	75523	0	75523
24. Nagaland	143791	0	143468
25. Orissa	4067135	568996	1229934
26. Pondicherry	37836	879	0
27. Punjab	997372	37753	0
28. Rajasthan	5819203	819230	902078
29. Sikkim	66635	2761	20045
30. Tamil Nadu	7858887	856774	67485
31. Tripura	479428	90951	151379
32. Uttar Pradesh	21668180	3686239	9013
33. Uttarakhand	890667	126021	27677
34. West Bengal	6789991	1667300	513453
ALL INDIA:	119893602	15139856	9404335

Note: Agriculture Census 2000-01 was not conducted in the State of Jharkhand.

Per hectare production

792. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even though India possesses the world's second largest cultivable land area (147 million hectares) after the US, India is fast decimating this asset by failing to salvage its abysmal agricultural productivity, which is very low in comparison even with other emerging economies like China, Thailand and Brazil;